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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending November 13, 2005

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Good Week for Field Work: This past week was quite possibly the best week for field work in a month. The ground has dried except for a few damp spots here and there. So far the yields for corn and soybeans have been beyond exceptional. However, these high yields have created a problem with low availability for storage. Because of this, some have been forced to slow their harvesting until more space for corn and soybeans is offered. This has been a good week for field condition as all categories improved. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, harvesting apples, planting wheat, harvesting corn, and harvesting soybeans.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending November 13, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	6	82	12

Crops: Fall plowing is now at 87 percent complete, slightly behind last year's pace. Eighty-four percent of the soybean crop is now harvested, which is ahead of the previous year's pace as well as the five-year average. The corn for grain is now 90 percent harvested, well ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average. The barley crop is now totally emerged. Winter wheat is now at 95 percent planted as 80 percent of the crop has already emerged. This season's wheat is doing very well as 81 percent is rated as either good or excellent. The 4th cutting of alfalfa has now ended.

Ninety-five percent of the apple crop is now harvested as the grape harvest has been officially completed. Both have been considered to be behind in progress compared to last year's pace and the average.

Livestock: This week many spent their time spreading manure throughout the fields. Because of this and the great weather,

pastures were considered to be in the best shape they have been in many weeks. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 9 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

U.S. as of November 6, 2005: Highlights: With the exception of some areas of the Southern Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts and the Pacific Northwest, warm weather prevailed nationwide, promoting winter wheat emergence and growth in areas with adequate soil moisture reserves. Farther north, widespread showers accompanied cold fronts crossing the Midwest on October 31 through November 1 and November 5-6. This benefited winter wheat but slowed corn and final soybean harvesting. In addition, severe thunderstorms accompanied the second front across the southern and eastern Corn Belt, resulting in isolated tornadoes and local wind damage.

Temperatures averaged over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the Corn Belt. Severe weather, including high winds, hail, and tornadoes, struck the region over the weekend, but damage to crops was minimal and fieldwork was not noticeably delayed. In the Northeast, the weather was mostly dry, but fields and pastures remained soggy from 2 weeks of heavy precipitation. Corn: Growers had harvested 90 percent of their acreage, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in most other States, with Michigan leading the normal pace by 27 points. Soybeans: Harvest advanced to 96 percent complete, compared with 87 percent last year and 91 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States. Winter Wheat: Ninety-five percent of the acreage had been planted, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Planting was complete or nearly complete across the Corn Belt and northern and central Great Plains and was at or ahead of normal in all States, except California, North Carolina, Oregon, and Washington. Meanwhile, acreage emerged advanced to 84 percent, compared with 82 percent last year and 80 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 13, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 13, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	70	39	51	6	1.21	3	23.71	-4.39	76	3,204	558	5,230
Franklin	70	29	47	5	0.82	3	27.16	-2.35	117	2,796	387	4,810
Meadville	67	33	48	6	0.83	3	26.11	-3.94	88	2,899	695	4,903
Mercer	70	30	48	6	0.74	3	27.93	-0.16	111	2,901	517	4,899
Springboro	68	29	47	3	1.43	4	30.32	3.25	98	2,657	70	4,607
Warren	70	29	47	6	1.47	4	27.08	-2.92	89	2,754	431	4,733
North Central												
Bradford Region	67	24	45	7	1.55	3	30.42	0.76	102	2,145	490	4,022
Emporium	70	25	45	5	1.19	4	23.17	-6.02	94	2,741	856	4,721
Kane	69	24	44	6	1.51	2	25.97	-4.45	80	2,044	430	3,899
Laporte	71	30	45	3	0.49	3	30.87	3.39	97	2,436	59	4,354
Lock Haven	73	26	47	4	0.93	2	19.95	-6.98	78	3,152	621	5,219
Port Allegany	68	25	44	5	1.16	4	24.94	-3.41	90	2,335	499	4,217
Renovo	73	27	47	5	0.87	3	18.69	-8.24	79	3,097	566	5,158
Ridgway	70	23	45	5	1.06	2	25.47	-3.72	86	2,380	495	4,310
Stevenson Dam	72	35	51	11	1.02	2	21.77	-7.42	85	2,951	1,066	5,018
Towanda	72	26	45	4	0.90	2	24.66	1.72	80	2,874	476	4,873
Wellsboro	70	25	44	5	1.34	3	28.80	5.81	79	2,278	498	4,168
Williamsport	69	27	47	4	1.26	2	28.83	1.75	66	3,357	565	5,451
Northeast												
Hawley	71	22	43	3	0.58	2	27.85	1.82	80	2,554	513	4,486
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	73	26	49	6	0.73	2	21.27	-3.85	76	3,433	786	5,510
Susquehanna	70	26	44	6	0.92	3	30.21	2.08	93	2,729	806	4,696
West Central												
Butler	72	27	47	5	0.61	4	25.18	-2.36	90	2,943	440	5,004
New Castle	72	29	48	7	0.58	2	27.97	2.58	82	3,233	727	5,326
Slippery Rock	71	32	49	8	1.06	4	27.40	0.21	90	3,019	777	5,123
Central												
Altoona/Blair	71	30	49	5	0.12	3	13.63	-10.88	63	2,934	269	4,992
DuBois	69	29	47	6	0.73	4	24.01	-3.72	115	2,716	439	4,729
Lewistown	73	28	48	4	0.51	3	23.09	-3.16	72	3,336	406	5,462
Middletown	73	30	51	5	0.03	2	23.18	-2.99	66	3,945	618	6,133
Prince Gallitzi	73	25	46	5	0.44	4	21.76	-9.45	86	2,512	383	4,466
Selinsgrove	72	26	46	4	0.08	2	25.09	-2.25	74	3,211	491	5,293
State College	72	31	49	7	0.39	2	18.96	-5.84	84	3,138	527	5,229
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	73	26	49	4	0.57	2	32.94	4.58	75	3,553	518	5,690
Lehighton	72	27	47	3	0.51	2	29.26	0.88	77	3,143	219	5,227
Matamoras	72	24	44	2	0.82	3	38.41	9.74	87	2,785	172	4,786
Tobyhanna	70	27	47	9	0.57	2	34.84	3.80	106	3,100	1,355	5,174
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	33	50	7	0.40	4	20.88	-4.87	91	3,575	883	5,713
Derry	74	32	50	7	0.76	3	25.09	-1.59	74	3,054	520	5,139
Myersdale	71	23	46	3	0.32	2	21.61	-7.55	79	2,361	-137	4,303
Mount Pleasant	74	24	47	6	0.42	3	27.40	-3.08	93	2,935	677	5,007
Pittsburgh Intl	73	31	49	6	1.00	4	24.69	0.80	81	3,387	567	5,494
Rector	72	28	48	6	0.61	3	25.65	-4.83	109	2,951	693	5,019
Waynesburg	75	27	48	5	0.83	4	22.30	-3.75	80	3,079	482	5,153
South Central												
Biglerville	74	29	49	3	0.26	2	28.82	3.85	76	3,479	226	5,619
Everett	68	24	45	2	0.16	2	17.16	-6.97	71	2,422	-236	4,402
Hanover	74	28	50	3	0.11	3	28.71	3.74	71	3,458	205	5,596
Shippensburg	73	29	50	4	0.15	3	27.14	2.82	83	3,503	260	5,635
South Mountain	71	29	49	6	0.36	1	28.03	3.52	72	2,937	284	5,045
York	75	25	50	4	0.18	2	22.74	-3.67	63	3,502	250	5,630
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	28	49	4	0.27	2	28.69	1.17	71	3,530	639	5,680
Hamburg	72	26	48	6	0.73	3	27.74	-4.22	72	3,520	913	5,660
Hopewell	73	28	49	2	0.13	2	31.82	3.09	94	3,546	103	5,698
Lancaster	72	29	50	5	0.17	2	28.47	0.80	70	3,654	588	5,804
Neshaminy Falls	75	26	48	3	0.31	2	33.09	1.66	64	3,359	336	5,472
New Holland	71	35	51	6	0.18	2	31.81	4.14	69	3,746	680	5,912
Philadelphia	74	33	54	6	0.35	2	26.11	-0.47	66	4,223	651	6,448
Philadelphia NE	76	31	53	5	0.30	2	29.62	3.04	67	4,092	520	6,303
Reading	74	28	50	5	0.32	2	25.85	-3.58	71	3,817	817	5,976
Valley Forge Na	73	24	48	2	0.20	2	27.02	-1.71	55	3,385	-58	5,489
Willow Grove	72	31	52	7	0.00	0	26.39	-5.04	50	3,747	724	5,926

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County has had a pretty good weather week. Last Friday through Sunday were beautiful fall days with daytime temps around 70 degrees. Nighttime temps did not dip much below 50 degrees. Monday the temperatures started to change to about 60 degrees and Tuesday and Wednesday was pretty cloudy and breezy around 60 degrees. Wednesday some areas of the county had some sporadic rain showers but didn't stop field work. Wednesday evening winds picked up with a couple more showers. Today is breezy and some rainfall predicted. Corn and soybeans continue to be harvested. The winds that we have been having are causing some corn and soybeans stalks to go down and making harvesting more interesting. Mills are getting full and limiting amount of corn and soybeans that can be delivered on a daily basis. Yields are still being reported as a good crop for both corn and soybeans. Additional wheat is still being sown after the producers harvested corn and soybeans crops. Apple harvest will soon be coming to an end in the county. Most growers are reporting another week of harvest.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Apple harvest is nearly completed. Lots of apples the past few weeks went on the ground as the harvest was delayed several days due to rains late in October. This past week was a good week to finish the field work and clean up equipment for winter. Corn and soybean yields are being reported at or slightly above normal.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Grain storage is tight. Harvest is temporarily slowing down while trying to find a place for the crop. Most of the corn is off but there are still some soybeans.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Good week for harvesting. A lot of producers are beginning to see the end of harvest. Storage availability is a concern to many producers. Good crops considering the growing season we have had is the general feeling of most grain producers. Forage supplies will be tight.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Corn and soybean yields are well above normal yields compared to the past 5 years. The weather has been great, especially for fall manure spreading. Fall plowing is well ahead of last year and equipment is being stored.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (Ext) - Good week for field work. A mostly dry week, provided opportunities for good harvest conditions. Fields are still wet at spots, but they are the best they have been for a month. Some wheat was planted by late in the week. Harvest progress is ahead of the average, but since crops have been mature for so long it seems to be dragging on for a while.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - The warm autumn weather during the last several weeks has made pastures very productive and has significantly extended the grazing season.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - A good week for harvesting corn and soybeans as the activities are reaching their final stages. Rainfall on Wednesday night in the range of 1/4 to 1/2 of an inch slowed the harvest for a day. The wheat and barley continue to make slow growth; however, on Saturday, temperatures dropped into the mid 20's, which will stopped the growth for the time being. The main activities were harvesting corn and soybeans, preparing machinery for winter storage and chopping corn stalks.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 13, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	87	90	80
Corn, harvested	90	85	79
Wheat, planted	95	95	96
Wheat, emerged	80	85	84
Soybeans, harvested	84	66	71
Apples, harvested	95	100	98

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 13, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	2	17	60	21
Pasture	9	6	47	32	6

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